

REDUCTION IN IDLE CARS AND WESTERN RATE DECISION STIMULATED RAILWAY ISSUES

TOLENT FLUCTUATIONS IN FEVERISH MARKET

Sharp Rise in Railroad Shares.
Industrials Erratic—Heavy Selling at Close

NEW YORK, Aug. 11.—The railroad stocks came into the market yesterday, relaxing the war in the background, at least temporarily. The chief stimulating factor was the publication of the ruling of the Interstate Commerce Commission on the western rate cases. Another bit of news favoring the bulls was the sharp reduction reported in the idle cars on the roads of the country, but heavy profit gains developed on the early rise and fell back in the afternoon.

In the last hour irregular recoveries were short-lived. Bethlehem Steel climbed upward, as did Allis-Chalmers. The market hardened again, but trading was not so brisk as in the morning, when there was every indication of a million-share turnover. Bethlehem Steel closed up 20 in the late trading, while the crowd leaped 10 points or more to a new high record. Allis-Chalmers also made a new high point, but the general market was still weak at the last when pressure developed against United States Steel and the railroad groups.

The fall effect of the rate decision was set in the initial dealing, as some study was required to determine the extent of the benefits obtained. Nevertheless, Union Pacific, St. Paul, Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, Western Maryland, New Haven, Chesapeake & Ohio, Kansas City Southern, and Western Maryland all moved up a point or more. There was also good demand for the sugar stocks on the rise in the price of the commodity. The war supply shares on the contrary, gave up ground, with Cradle Steel falling back several points. Bethlehem was also back sharply. Unusual activity developed in Kansas City Southern, the underling being based not only on the rate decision, but also because of expected profits to accrue from business routed via the Panama Canal.

After a careful study of the rate decision the financial district was inclined to feel that it would prove rather disappointing to the railroads, as the important items of traffic for which advances had been asked are excluded from the increases allowed. These include packing-house products, live stock, grain and grain products.

The traders began to sell stocks when the decision had been thoroughly assimilated and prices fell back all around. The rails lost most of their early gains, while industrials declined sharply. Mexican Petroleum and American Smelting suffered from unfavorable news from Mexico. United States Rubber, American Tobacco and American Locomotive showed declines ranging from 1 to 2% points, while General Motors dropped 4%. Stearns-Bechtel was an exceptional feature of strength, also the United Railway Investors.

The Foreign Exchange situation continued to worry the banking contingent. On this side of the Atlantic demand sterling and francs both made new low records. In Paris today sterling and dollars continued their sensational rise to 27.45 and 27 respectively, despite large intervention sales by the Bank of France. Purchases were mainly against maturing contracts and on account of leading grain importers. The scarcity of exchange on London and New York is becoming a serious problem for importers.

BANK CLEARINGS

Banks clearing today compared with corresponding day last two years.

1914.....\$22,027,070 1913.....\$24,347,110

1914.....\$24,835,318 1913.....\$16,066,765

1914.....\$27,405,065 1913.....\$12,632,622

1914.....\$267,549,763 1913.....\$267,549,764

RATES FOR MONEY

Cash, Time.

New York.....\$1.00 1/2 2½% 1/2

New